

House Republican Press Release

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Scribner: Bond Commission to Approve Rail Car Funds



HARTFORD- State Representative David Scribner (R-Brookfield) today announced that he expected the State Bond Commission to approve \$459 million for use in purchasing 300 new rail cars for Metro-North and Shore Line East commuter rails. Another \$25 million is expected to be approved for refurbishing the lines and

cars which includes the Norwalk to Danbury segment.

Connecticut's rail car fleet is significantly aged. Improving and updating the fleet was a centerpiece of Governor M. Jodi Rell's efforts for improvements in the state's transportation infrastructure.

"These bond funds are a critical step in moving the transportation infrastructure plan forward, and implementing the Governor's plan for major overhauls and improvement," said Scribner, who is Ranking Member on the legislature's Transportation Committee.

The New York based Kawasaki Rail Car, Inc. has been charged with designing and building up to 380 M-8 rail cars. Under the contract, the first 50 cars will be ready in 2009.

"Most of the fleet is over 30 years old, and their condition is deplorable," said Scribner. "This represents a renewed commitment to the commuter rails and public transportation systems which are the key to alleviating heavy traffic congestion, and improving all modes of transportation statewide."

The Bond Commission is scheduled to meet Friday, August 18th, at 10:30 A.M. in Room 1E of the Legislative Office Building.